

Metal and Nonmetal



Quarterly



Volume 1 Number 1

“Safety and Health are Values”

Winter 2004

FLASH

Law of Gravity

Not Repealed

ARLINGTON, Virginia - In a surprise announcement today, Robert M. Friend, Administrator for Metal and Nonmetal, announced that, “Congress has not repealed the Law of Gravity. If something is hanging over your head, it will still fall on you unless properly supported. You can also fall if not properly supported.”

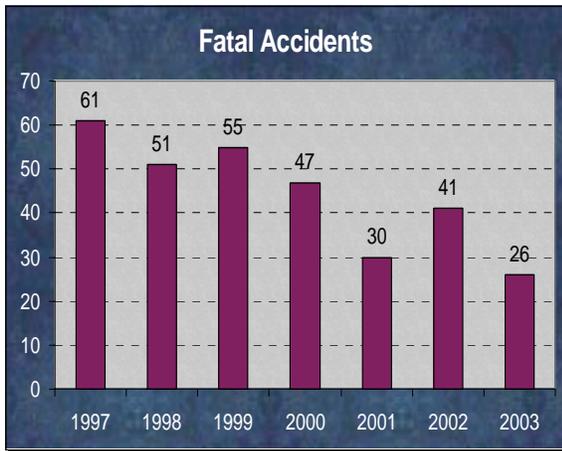
Mr. Friend is urging all mine operators and contractors to reinforce to all miners the hazards involved when trying to work against the Law of Gravity. “Too many miners are being hurt when things they are working on fall on them.” said Friend. “Twenty-three miners were killed in the past two years alone by falling rocks or other objects. Everything from rocks, crusher liners, tires and even a

metal frame that was being fabricated in a shop have caused fatal injuries. We are asking all mine operators and contractors to remember that the Law of Gravity is still in effect and what is up definitely wants to fall down.”



Fatal Accidents On the Rise

ARLINGTON, Virginia - Accident Investigations Chief John Radomsky today announced that fatal accidents in the metal and nonmetal mining industry are on the rise. “Although fatal accidents hit an all time low during 2003, we have had five in just the past two weeks. The entire industry really worked hard last year and made a tremendous effort to reduce fatal accidents. Each and every one of them should be commended for a job well done,” said Radomsky, “but now is the time to redouble



Fatal accidents in the metal and nonmetal mining industry reached an all time low of 26 in 2003.

our efforts to build on last year’s success. Although 2003 was a record year, it is still tragic that 26 miners lost their lives while at work, but it will be even more tragic if another 26, or even more,

lose their lives during 2004. That leaves a whole lot of people out there to suffer the loss of a loved one. There is still much more we can and must do in 2004. Our goal is always zero fatalities and perhaps someday, with industry involvement, we will get there.”

Spring Thaw Gets into Full Swing

Metal and Nonmetal Spring Thaw workshops are in high gear. The theme for this year’s Spring Thaw is “Building and Rebuilding the Safety Culture.” These workshops are available at no charge to mine operators and contractors. Volunteers have generously offered to join MSHA in instructing on various mine safety and health issues. Following is a list of the dates and locations of the Spring Thaw workshops. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your local MSHA field office.

Spring Thaw Seminars			
City	State	Location	Date
Fairbanks	AK	Fairbanks Gold Mining Co.	March 22, 2004
Sumiton	AL	Bevill State College	March 2, 2004
Little Rock	AR	States Grants Building C	March 23, 2004
Phoenix	AZ	Rinker Materials	April 5, 2004
Vacaville	CA	Holiday Inn Express	March 16, 2004
San Bernardino	CA	San Bernardino Hilton	February 6, 2004
Denver	CO	Colorado Rock Products Facility	February 25, 2004
Lakeland	FL	Polk Community College	February 19, 2004
Sandersville	GA	Sandersville Technical College	March 10, 2004
Des Moines	IA	Four Points Sheraton Hotel	March 30, 2004
Boise	ID	Holiday Inn	April 7, 2004
Rockford	IL	Ramada Inn Convention Center	March 23, 2004
Terre Haute	IN	IVY Tech State College	March 18, 2004
Lawrence	KS	Holiday Inn	March 31, 2004
Lexington	KY	Holiday Inn South	March 16, 2004
Baton Rouge	LA	Comfort Suites of Baton Rouge	March 3, 2004
Mt. Pleasant	MI	Soaring Eagle Resort	March 25, 2004
Burnsville	MN	Holiday Inn Burnside	April 1, 2004
Columbia	MO	Days Inn	March 25, 2004
St. Louis	MO	Holiday Inn St. Louis South	February 26, 2004
Billings	MT	Hampton Inn	April 6, 2004
Sanford	NC	Community Center	February 26, 2004
Columbus	NE	Holiday Inn Express	March 17, 2004
Manchester	NH	The Yard Meeting Room	February 12, 2004
Albuquerque	NM	Holiday Inn - Albuquerque	January 29, 2004
Elko	NV	Western Folklife Center	April 21, 2004
Henderson	NV	Henderson Convention Center	March 10, 2004
Albany	NY	Best Western, Albany Airport Inn	February 10, 2004
Batavia	NY	Holiday Inn	March 11, 2004
Columbus	OH	Ramada Plaza	March 16, 2004
Muskogee	OK	Indian Capitol Technical Center	April 6, 2004
Medford	OR	Rogue Regency	February 25, 2003
Edensburg	PA	PA Dept. Environmental Protection	March 9, 2004
Reading	PA	Inn at Reading	February 26, 2004
Ponce,	PR	Casa Capitular	February 25, March 3,
Aikens	SC	Aikens Community College	March 16, 2004
Rapid City	SD	GCC Dakota Mine	February 24, 2004
Carryville,	TN	Tennessee Dept. of Labor	February 24, 2004
Murfreesboro	TN	Sports Complex	March 18, 2004
El Paso	TX	Airport Holiday Inn - El Paso	February 10, 2004
Midlothian	TX	Midlothian Civic Center	March 17, 2004
New Braunfels	TX	Holiday Inn	February 18, 2004
Salt Lake City	UT	LMH Conf. Center	April 5, 2004
Charlottesville	VA	VA Dept. Mines, Mineral and Env.	February 24, 2004
Seattle	WA	4 Federal South Center	April 28, 2004
Wausau	WI	Plaza Hotel and Suites	April 6, 2004
Casper	WY	Radisson Hotel	April 20, 2004

. . . The inaugural edition of the Metal and Nonmetal Quarterly! The Quarterly is a newsletter that will include articles of interest on topics such as hazard recognition, accident reduction, accident trends, and news of MSHA activities and upcoming events. As the name implies, this newsletter will be published each quarter, so bookmark this page and watch for the next issue.



U.S. Department of Labor

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